



Haas Group International Inc.  
1475 Phoenixville Pike • West Chester • PA • 19380 • USA  
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February 14, 2014

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS TRACKING NO. 797924187763**

Ms. Bonnie Hriczko  
Removal Action Branch  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION II  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue, MS-211  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

**Re: Response to Request for Information Pursuant to Section 104 of CERCLA  
Superior Barrel and Drum Site, Elk, Gloucester County, New Jersey**

Dear Ms. Hriczko:

### **GENERAL OBJECTIONS**

Haas Group International Inc. ("Haas") makes the following General Objections to each and every one of the Requests contained in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("U.S. EPA's") request for information pursuant to Section 104(e) of CERCLA regarding the Superior Barrel and Drum Site, Elk, Gloucester County, New Jersey ("SBD Site"):

1. Haas objects to each of the Information Requests contained herein on the grounds that CERCLA does not authorize U.S. EPA, or any other party, to request, or otherwise compel any party to provide information with respect to any matter not involving the release, or threat of release, of hazardous substances into the environment.
2. Without waiving General Objection No. 1, to the extent that any Information Request seeks information that does not relate to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance into the environment (see Objection 5, below), Haas objects to the Request on the grounds that it exceeds U.S. EPA's and any other party's authority to request information pursuant to CERCLA.
3. Haas objects to the suggestion that it has an ongoing duty to supplement the responses set forth herein on the grounds that CERCLA neither creates such a duty, nor does it authorize U.S. EPA or any other party to establish one.
4. Haas objects to the instruction stating that its response be accompanied by a notarized affidavit on the grounds that CERCLA does not require submission of such an affidavit.
5. Haas objects to the terms "Material" and "Materials" on the grounds that they are overly broad and beyond the scope of CERCLA because they are defined to include "matter of any kind".



6. Haas objects to the request to provide U.S. EPA with home address and telephone information for any current and former employees on the grounds that this request is beyond the authority provided in CERCLA and could violate the privacy rights of current and former Haas employees.

7. Haas objects to the suggestion that it sent any material to the SBD Site, as defined in U.S. EPA's Information Request. No material was sent by Haas (or any related entity) to the SBD Site.

8. Haas objects to the suggestion that it handled, treated, stored, transported, and/or disposed of any hazardous substance at the SBD Site.

Without waiving any of these objections, Haas provides the following Responses to the Request.

### **RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

#### **General Information about the Company**

1. a. State the correct legal name of the Company.  
**Haas Group International Inc.**
- b. Identify the legal status of the Company (corporation, partnership, specify if other) and the state in which the Company was organized.  
**Pennsylvania Corporation**
- c. State the name(s) and address(es) of the officer(s) of the Company.  
**Chief Executive Officer – Thaddeus J. Fortin**  
**Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary – James E. Gutknecht**  
**Address - 1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite 101, West Chester, PA 19380**
- d. If the Company has subsidiaries or affiliates, or is a subsidiary of another organization, identify these related companies and state the name(s) and address(es) of the officer(s) of those organizations. Provide the same information for any further parent/subsidiary relationships.
  - (i) **Haas Group Inc.**  
**The ultimate parent company which is a non-operating, holding company.**  
**Chief Executive Officer – Thaddeus J. Fortin**  
**Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary – James E. Gutknecht**  
**Address - 1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite 101, West Chester, PA 19380**
  - (ii) **Haas Holdings, Inc.**  
**The parent company to Haas Group International Inc. which is a non-operating, holding company.**  
**Chief Executive Officer – Thaddeus J. Fortin**  
**Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary – James E. Gutknecht**  
**Address - 1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite 101, West Chester, PA 19380**

**(iii) American Enterprise Industries LLC**

**A wholly-owned subsidiary of Haas Group International Inc. which operated the blending business in Philadelphia, PA from September 2004 through September 2010. This entity is now dormant.**

**Chief Executive Officer – Thaddeus J. Fortin**

**Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary – James E. Gutknecht**

**Address - 1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite 101, West Chester, PA 19380**

**(iv) NetMRO Inc.**

**A wholly-owned subsidiary of Haas Group International Inc. which operates its distribution business out of Miami, FL.**

**Chief Executive Officer – Thaddeus J. Fortin**

**Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary – James E. Gutknecht**

**Address - 1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite 101, West Chester, PA 19380**

**(v) In addition to the entities listed above, the Company has several non-operating, wholly-owned subsidiaries which hold the Company's investments in several foreign jurisdictions. Such wholly-owned subsidiaries currently do not and have never operated business in the U.S. and their general corporate information is not germane to this response.**

e. If the Company is successor to, or has been succeeded by, another, identify such other company and provide the same information requested above for the predecessor or successor company.

**(i) Haas Total Chemical Management LLC**

**A wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company (f/k/a Haas Corporation).**

**Effective January 1, 2004, Haas Total Chemical Management LLC was merged with and into Haas Corporation, with Haas Corporation being the surviving entity.**

**Chief Executive Officer – Thaddeus J. Fortin**

**Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary – James E. Gutknecht**

**Address - 1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite 101, West Chester, PA 19380**

**(ii) Integrated Chemical Management Solutions Inc. (d/b/a Avchem Inc.)**

**A wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company which was acquired through a merger on January 18, 2008.**

**This entity never conducted any manufacturing activities, and none of the Company's records related to the acquisition evidence any business transacted with SBD.**

**Effective August 20, 2009, this entity changed its name to Haas CMS Inc., and effective December 31, 2010, this entity merged with and into the Company, with the Company being the surviving entity.**

**Chief Executive Officer – Thaddeus J. Fortin**

**Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary – James E. Gutknecht**

**Address - 1475 Phoenixville Pike, Suite 101, West Chester, PA 19380**

f. If the Company transacted business with SBD in the name of an entity not already disclosed, give the name of such entity and state its relationship to the Company.

**To our knowledge, the Company has not conducted any business with SBD in the name of any entity including, but not limited to, an entity not already disclosed within this response.**

2. a. Describe in detail the nature of your Company's business during the years 1974 to the present. If the nature of the business has not been constant describe the changes that have occurred, including any name changes, and when they occurred.

**On May 19, 1975, the Company was originally incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the name Charles J. Haas, Inc. The Company began as a specialty chemical blending company, conducting its operations in Philadelphia, PA. Its customer base was mainly the automotive, paper and baking industries.**

**In the 1990s, the Company moved its business away from specialty chemical blending towards chemical and supply chain management services for customers in the automotive and industrial, aerospace and defense, and process and electronics markets.**

**On September 28, 2002, the Company (f/k/a Haas Corporation) acquired certain assets of Radian International LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of URS Corporation. The purchased assets primarily included intellectual property (i.e., proprietary software), customer contracts and inventory. It is noted that (i) none of the Company's records related to the transaction or the purchased assets evidence any business transacted with SBD; and (ii) aside from the asset acquisition, the Company has no other connection with Radian International.**

**On September 15, 2004, the Company incorporated American Enterprise Industries LLC as a wholly-owned subsidiary. From this point onward all of the Company's blending activities were conducted solely by this entity.**

**On September 30, 2009, American Enterprise Industries LLC sold all of its assets related to the blending business to an unrelated third party. Today neither the Company, nor American Enterprise Industries LLC conducts any blending operations, and American Enterprise Industries LLC is effectively a dormant company.**

**Company name changes:**

**5/19/1975 – Originally incorporated as Charles J. Haas, Inc.**

**8/10/1988 – Name change to Haas Corporation.**

**1/1/2004 - Name change to Haas TCM Inc.**

**6/15/2009 - Name change to Haas Group International Inc.**

- b. Describe your Company's operations from 1974 to the present and identify all chemicals used or produced as a result of your Company's operations during that period, including any chemical substances used to clean equipment or machinery and the nature and chemical constituents of all waste streams and their disposition.

**Haas has no records or other evidence that it ever conducted any business transactions with SBD and therefore objects to this Request on the basis that it is overly broad and burdensome. Without waiving its objection, Haas states as follows: From May 1975 through September 2010, the Company operated a small blending facility in Philadelphia, PA. During this time, the types of chemicals it handled and sold were cleaning products and lubricants.**

**Company's Relationship to Superior Barrel and Drum ("SBD")**

3. a. State whether the Company or any Company facility conducted any business transactions with SBD for the disposal, treatment, or storage of any barrels, drums, or other containers (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Containers").
- None.
- b. If so, identify each such facility and describe the relationship between the Company and SBD, including the nature of services rendered or products sold to the Company;
- N/A
- c. Provide copies of any contracts or agreements between the Company and SBD;
- N/A
4. a. For each facility identified in Question 3, state the nature of the operations conducted at the facility, including the time period in which the facility operated;
- N/A
- b. State the name, address, and current RCRA Identification Number of each facility;
- N/A
5. For each transaction between the Company and SBD, provide the following information, which may be provided in tabular format.
- a. Identify the specific dates of each transaction and the facility involved with each transaction. Where an exact date cannot be provided for a transaction, provide an approximation by month and year;
- N/A
- b. Identify the maker of containers that were the subject of each such transaction;
- N/A
- c. Generically describe each Container that was the subject of each such transaction including the Container capacity and type (example; 55gallon closed head steel drums, etc.);
- N/A
- d. Identify the intended purpose and nature of each such transaction (example: Company products sold to SBD, Company waste disposed of by SBD, Company products purchased from SBD, Services rendered to or from the Company to or from SBD, etc.);
- N/A
- e. State whether each Container that was the subject of the transaction contained any substance(s) at the time of the transaction. As to each Container that contained any substance:
- (1) Identify each such substance, including its specific chemical constituent(s), physical state, quantity by volume and weight, and other characteristics; and
- (2) Provide all written analyses that may have been generated for each such substance or which may be in the custody or control of the Company and all material safety data sheets, if any, relating to each such substance;
- N/A

6. Provide copies of all documents relating in any way to each transaction, including copies of delivery receipts, invoices, or payment devices.

N/A

7. Identify all persons who might have knowledge of the transaction or who had any responsibility regarding the transaction.

N/A

8. If you contend that any Container identified in response to Question 5, above, did not contain any substance at the time of the transaction, state whether such Container had previously been used by the Company to contain any substance, and if so:

- a. Identify all substances previously contained within such Container, including its specific chemical constituent(s), physical state, and other characteristic(s); and
- b. Provide as to such substance(s), all written analyses that may have been generated for each such substance or which may be in the custody or control of the Company and all material safety data sheets, if any, relating to each such substance;

N/A

9. Describe in detail any treatment of any Container that may have been performed by or on behalf of the Company prior to the time that the Container was transferred from the Company, including any process or procedure by which the Container was emptied or cleaned.

**Haas has no records or other evidence that it ever conducted any business transactions with SBD and, to the extent this Request seeks information unrelated to the SBD Site, Haas objects to this Request on the basis that it is overly broad and burdensome. Without waiving its objection, Haas states as follows: Haas did not treat Containers. Such Containers were sent to third parties for reconditioning and then returned to Haas for further use.**

10. If you sent any Container by means of any third party transporter, identify each such transporter, including the name and address of such transporter, and identify in which of the transactions such transporter acted.

**Haas has no records or other evidence that it ever conducted any business transactions with SBD and, to the extent this Request seeks information unrelated to the SBD Site, Haas objects to this Request on the basis that it is overly broad and burdensome. Without waiving its objection, Haas states as follows: Haas has never sent any Containers to the SBD Site by means of a third party transporter or otherwise.**

11. Identify each person consulted in responding to these questions and all questions on which he or she was consulted.

**The following individuals were consulted in response to all of the questions –  
Thaddeus J. Fortin – CEO; and James E. Gutknecht – CAO**

12. Identify any other person or entity (e.g., individual, company, partnership, etc.) having knowledge of facts relating to the questions which are the subject of this inquiry. For each such person that you identify, provide the name, address, and telephone number of that person, and the basis of your belief that he or she has such knowledge. For past and present employees, include their job title(s) and a description of the responsibilities.

**None.**

13. Supply any additional information or documents that may be relevant or useful to identify other sources who disposed of or transported Containers to the Site.

**None.**

Please feel free to contact us should you have any further questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thaddeus J. Fortin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thaddeus" and last name "Fortin" clearly distinguishable.

Thaddeus J. Fortin

Chief Executive Officer

cc: Mr. William Tucker, Esq.  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II  
290 Broadway, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
*VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS TRACKING NO. 797924270061*

Greg Narsh, Esq.  
Pepper Hamilton LLP  
*VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL*

From: (484) 564-4588  
 Danielle Rodichok  
 Haas Group International Inc.  
 1475 Phoenixville Pike  
 Suite 101  
 West Chester, PA 19380

Origin ID: BIGA



Ship Date: 14FEB14  
 ActWgt: 0.5 LB  
 CAD: 100226405/INET3490

Delivery Address Bar Code



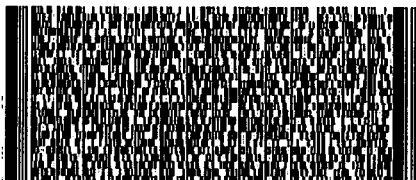
SHIP TO: (732) 321-6647  
**Bonnie Hriczko**  
**US EPA Region II**  
**2890 Woodbridge Ave, MS-211**  
**Removal Action Branch**  
**EDISON, NJ 08837**

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- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

## 1. Article Addressed to:

Haas Group International, Inc.  
 (Radian International)  
 1475 Phoenixville Pike  
 West Chester, PA 19380  
 Attn: Thadeus Fortin, CEO

## 2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

## A. Signature

X

K. Oddo

☐ Agent☐ Addressee

## B. Received by (Printed Name)

K. Oddo

## C. Date of Delivery

## D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

☐ Yes

If YES, enter delivery address below:

☐ No

## 3. Service Type

X

☒ Certified Mail☐ Express Mail☐ Registered☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise☐ Insured Mail☐ C.O.D.

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☐ Yes

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